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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [PREL](#) [PINS](#) [IZ](#)  
SUBJECT: SALAH AD DIN PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS PART I: PARTIES  
ORGANIZING FOR PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

REF: A. BAGHDAD3211  
[1](#)B. BAGHDAD 1684

Classified By: CLASSIFIED BY PRT SALAH AD DIN TEAM LEADER RICK BELL FOR  
REASONS 1.4 (a) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) This is a PRT Salah ad Din reporting cable.

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SUMMARY  
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[1](#)2. (C) Political entities in Salah ad Din (SaD) province have been working intensively to forge alliances for upcoming provincial elections. The Governor, Deputy Governor, and Provincial Director of Police (PDOP) are all running on, or supporting, different parties. This report synthesizes information from numerous sources of varying reliability, and describes the major parties listed in the elections. While there are some reports of intimidation and fears of dirty tricks, preparations seem to be smooth so far. A subsequent cable will address Ba'athist and Minority involvement in the elections. END SUMMARY.

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NOTABLE POLITICAL ENTITIES  
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[1](#)3. (U) Notable political entities in SaD include: Tawafuq; the Salah ad Din National List; Al-Hal; the Front for the Iraqi National Project; a coalition between the Iraqi National List of Ayad Allawi and Saleh Al-Mutlaq's Iraqi Front for National Dialogue; and the Front for the Iraqi National Project. They are described below. Dr. Hasan Zaynalabdeen Naqi, a Shi'a Turkman and the Director General of Health, is running as an individual.

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TAWAFUQ/IIP  
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[1](#)4. (SBU) The Tawafuq list is generally seen as best positioned for the elections, thanks to its organization and resources. It includes the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP). The senior Tawafuq leaders in SaD are Dr. Jamal Al-Gailaini; Ali Al-Ajeeli; Sheikh Mahdi Al-Alayan; and Thabit Mutleq.

[1](#)5. (C) Abdul Kahar Samarra'i, the Chairman of the Public Relations Committee for the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP) in SaD, told the PRT that IIP was the only real active party in the province, and that it will select most of the names on the Tawafuq list for SaD. Each of the district and sub-district branches were to nominate 20 names; the party's elections committee was to then select the 28 names for the ballot and pass them to party leaders in Baghdad for ratification. Samarra, a Sunni town despite being home to the Shi'a Golden Dome mosque shrine, is seen as an IIP stronghold.

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SALAH AD DIN NATIONAL LIST

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¶6. (SBU) The Salah ad Din National List (renamed from SaD National Front) was formed recently and has been seeking alliances with Tawafuq, Al-Hal, Ayad Allawi's list, and the Iraqi National Gathering, led by Dr. Hussein Al-Jubouri, a CoR member originally from Al-Alam who is a harsh critic of SaD Deputy Governor Abdullah Hussein Jebara. An inside source predicted that Tawafuq would demand at least half of the bloc's list, which would make it difficult for the parties to reach agreement. The SaD National List comprises three parties and two registered individuals as follows:

- The Justice and Revival ("nehdha") Party, headed by Dr. Amer Ayash Al-Jubouri, Dean of the Tikrit University Law school;
- The Independence and Revival Party;
- The National Future Party of Deputy Prime Minister Issawi;
- Sheikh Hamad Abdullah Saleh Al-Hamadi, brother of the former governor of Diwaniyah;
- Walid Novan Askar, a successful Tikriti businessman.

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AL-HAL  
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¶7. (C) Al-Hal ("The Solution") is said to be a national secular Sunni party with a provincial office in SaD headed by

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Sheikh Jaber Dahham Abed Mohammed. One of its components, the National Front for the Salvation of Iraq, is represented by Jamal al-Karbooli. Al-Hal is said to be popular, with a strong budget and organization, and to enjoy strong support among women because of its very active program promoting women's issues. Sheikh Jaber reportedly complained that Iraqi Police have been harassing him and have tried to mislead CF into targeting the party based on accusations of terrorist connections. (NOTE: CF have assured the PRT that they are not targeting Al-Hal. END NOTE).

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JEMOO'  
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¶8. (C) Deputy Governor Abdullah Hussein Jebara's Front for the Iraqi National Project (whose Arabic acronym Jemoo' conveys the sense of "gathering"), is reportedly led by Sheikh Sabhan Chiyad Grain Aziz from Bayji. Sheikh Sabhan resides in Amman, Jordan. He is understood to be a well-known previous leader of the Iraqi Communist Party, now a contractor who owns three companies and has built ties with Deputy Governor Abdullah based on a commercial relationship. SaD Satellite TV (the only local TV station) is said to be supporting this party based on a connection between Deputy Governor Abdullah and Ibraheem Dahash, the brother of the TV station's owner who is from Abdullah's home town of Al-Alam, and is a former member of the Communist Party.

¶9. (C) Deputy Governor Abdullah has told the PRT that several groups, including the Iraqi Islamic Party (IIP), have asked him to join them but he refused; others tell us he asked and was turned down. Abdullah says Jemoo' is based on the principles of nationalism and inclusiveness, and includes former Communists, former Ba'athists, and other secularists.

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ALLAWI-MUTLEQ COALITION: BA'ATHIST APPEAL  
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¶10. (C) The PRT understands Ayad Allawi's Iraqi National List has formed a coalition with the Iraqi Front for National

Dialogue headed by Saleh Al-Mutlaq. This list is viewed by many as a front for Ba'athists. Interestingly, Governor Hamad Hamood Shekti is running on Allawi's list, as is his Assistant ("Ma'awon") for Security Affairs, Ahmed Abdullah, aka Abu Mazen.

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PDOP ALIGNED WITH INTERIOR MINISTER  
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¶11. (C) SaD Provincial Director of Police (PDOP) Major General Hamed Al-Namis (Sunni Arab) is understood to have allied himself with the Constitution Party of Interior Minister Jawad Bulani (Shi'a). The PRT has heard Bulani's party described as a proxy for Prime Minister Maliki's Da'wa Party. The PDOP's choice is presumed to be motivated by career considerations.

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FEARS OF DIRTY TRICKS  
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¶12. (C) We have heard claims of intimidation from candidates and the GEO (reftels), mostly accusing either the Deputy Governor or the PDOP, but have not been able to substantiate specific allegations. The GEO, who is affiliated with IIP, told us recently that preparations are proceeding smoothly. The fact that key figures from the Deputy Governor's own Jubouri tribe are running on rival lists undermines the conventional notion that he has a stranglehold on the province. The PDOP's affiliation with Interior Minister Bulani's party has caused some fear that he could misuse the Iraqi Police (IP) to manipulate the elections. The SaD GEO has told the PRT he worries that the IP has been entrusted with the task of escorting the ballot boxes after the voting; he would have more confidence in the neutrality and professionalism of the Iraqi Army.

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COMMENT  
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¶13. (C) The PRT's contacts paint a consistent picture regarding election preparations in SaD: much disenchantment with the current Provincial Council, a population eager for elections, and no major segment intending to boycott the elections. There is optimism that, thanks to the open-list system, voters will be able to choose from a number of good candidates for provincial offices. However, public expectations may be unrealistically high; not everyone grasps

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the implications of the province being a single electoral constituency (e.g., that the most successful lists will be those that appeal to voters throughout the province, and that merely having candidates from a particular area does not mean they will be elected, even if their list does well). END  
COMMENT.  
CROCKER